Arrest of Central Excise and Customs Officials

1556. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of officers of Central Excise and Customs have been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) during the last one year;

(b) if so, what are the names and designations of these officers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in a large number of cases CBI has sought permission of Government to prosecute these officers or register regular cases and private persons connected with them; and

(d) if so, how many cases permission has been granted and the reasons for not granting permission in the remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

VRS in Nationalised Banks in Karnataka

1557. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank employees and officers of various nationalised banks in Karnataka who have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme so far;

(b) the amount paid towards terminal benefits;

(c) whether Government are aware that VRS has adversely affected the customer service in nationalised banks; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken to recruit staff in some nationalised banks in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VKHEPATIL): (a) As per available information in respect of 22 banks out of 26 public sector banks who have introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), 8622 employees and officers from Karnataka have given option under th Scheme.